

COMBAT LOGISTICS BATTALION 13





CLB-13 FAMILY READINESS NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 1

April 2009



USS BOXER, LHD-4



USS NEW ORLEANS, LPD-18



USS COMSTOCK, LSD-45

THE JOURNEY BEGINS...

Combat Logistics Battalion 13 deployed on 9 January 2009 for WESTPAC 2009 in support of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (13th MEU). The 13th MEU is currently on a scheduled sevenmonth deployment as the nation's ready-reserve force within the Pacific and Central Commands. Comprised of approximately 2,200 Marines and Sailors, the MEU is prepared to support a variety of missions in the western pacific; from humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to decisive combat operations. Battalion Landing Team 1/1, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron – 163 (Rein.), and Combat Logistics Battalion – 13 serve as the ground combat element, aviation combat element, and logistics combat element, respectively.

The 13th MEU serves as the Landing Force for Amphibious Ready Group 5, and completed its final certification exercise, Dec. 12. Over the past several months, the Marines and Sailors completed a series of exercises, including Training in An Urban Environment, MEU Exercise (MEUEX) and Expeditionary Strike Group Integration.

Close to 300 Combat Logistics Battalion 13 Marines and Sailors are currently embarked aboard the USS Boxer (LHD 4), USS Comstock (LSD 45), and USS New Orleans (LPD 18).

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EXERCISE "COCONUT GROVE" IN THE MALDIVES

In February, Marines and Sailors from CLB-13 participated in Exercise Coconut Grove in the Republic of Maldives, a small group of atolls southeast of India. Working with colleagues in the Maldivian public health care system and Armed Forces, CLB-13 Corpsmen assisted in completing a medical and dental assistance mission that benefited residents of Naifaru, in the Lavivani Atoll.

In addition to the medical assistance and community outreach, U.S. forces from the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit and the Maldivian National Defense Force (MNDF) conducted joint exercises to develop professional skills and interoperability on Addoo Atoll. Training included classes in the U.S. Marine Corps Martial Arts Pro-



gram, a Combat Lifesaver Course given by U.S. Navy Corpsmen, and MNDF members teaching U.S. Marines jungle survival skills.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

| 1st MLG Family Readiness Coordinator (Marianne Espinoza) (760) 763-3208 Animal Shelter. 725-8120 American Red Cross, Bldg. H-100 (Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton) 725-3303 American Red Cross, Bldg. H-100 (Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton) 725-3303 American Red Cross, GrOLL FREE) (800) 733-2767 Base Chaplain 725-6770 Base Housing Office, Bldg. 1138 725-5987 Base Legal, Bldg. 22161 725-6772 Consolidated Substance Abuse Counseling Center (CSACC) Main Office, Bldg. 16105. 725-5538 / 725-5539 Commissary (Rear main gate 430-1701 Commissary (Seaside Square 725-7136 / 430-1701 Commissary (Seaside Square 725-6638 Counseling Services, Bldg. 1122 725-6638 Counseling Services, Bldg. 1122 725-9051 Debt Consolidation 725-6038 DEERS (Dependent Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System) located at JRC 725-2442 Devil Pups (Youth Program) (800) 497-9810 DMV (Oceanside) (800) 777-0133 ID Cards 725-2442 Information & Referral (best number for any questions about services on Camp Pendleton 725-3024 | CLB 13 Family Readiness Officer (MSgt Maurice Anderson) Office:(760 |)763-0486 Cell:: (760) 468-7618 |
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| American Red Cross, Bldg. H-100 (Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton) | 1st MLG Family Readiness Coordinator (Marianne Espinoza) | (760) 763-3208 |
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| Veterans Administration, Bldg. 13150 | | |
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| | YMCA, Bldg. 16144 | |

ALL NUMBERS ARE 760 AREA CODE UNLESS OTHERWISE LISTED



COMMENTS FROM THE COMMAND DECK



From the Commanding Officer, LtCol Keith Reventlow



Greetings Families and Friends of CLB-13!

Things are going very well as we round the corner of the three month mark. The Marines and Sailors of CLB-13 have already accomplished a lot.

Members of the Battalion on the USS Boxer participated in sustainment training in Guam providing support to the BLT units that were also ashore. The Landing Support Detachment supported the ACE's CH-53E Detachment with a Helicopter Support Team where they rigged a M777 Howitzer for external flight under the aircraft.

During Exercise Coconut Grove in the Maldives in February the Marines and Sailors from USS Comstock participated in a bi-lateral training event with the Maldivian National Defense Force. This was also a Medical and Dental Capabilities event where Sailors from CLB, USS Comstock and USS New Orleans saw over 600 patients during a four day period. A small group from Combat Logistics Company 131 went ashore and established a Beach

Operations Group and set up the Tactical Water Purification System to make water for drinking and showers.

Last month a small Detachment of Marines and Sailors supported Bravo Company from BLT 1/1 with basic Combat Service Support while participating in Exercise Sea Soldier.

Aboard the USS Boxer Marines and Sailors of CLB-13 have been supporting anti-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia. A large contingent is now ashore in Djibouti supporting Charlie Company BLT 1/1 with fuel, water, food and transportation while they conduct sustainment training.

Across all three ships the Marines have enjoyed many different liberty ports to include the Maldives, Thailand, Guam, Hawaii, Malaysia, Oman, Bahrain, Singapore and Qatar. At every port is the opportunity to experience a different culture. I'm sure many of you have already received souvenirs and gifts that represent each country that your loved one has visited.

We're not quite half way yet and the Marines and Sailors of CLB-13 have experienced a great deal and are doing a fantastic job. I'm sure the future will be just as eventful as our journey continues.

Sergeant Major Sounds Off..., SgtMaj Rob Baker



To the Families and Friends of CLB-13: The Marines and Sailors of our Battalion continue to do very well and represent the Marine Corps, Navy and our Nation extremely well. They are training hard while on ship and are impressively conducting

numerous military exercises with friendly nations in our area of operations.

As we find ourselves nearly 1/3 of the way through this deployment, and I am continually impressed with the performance of the Marines and Sailors of the Command. They remain focused on their assigned missions and always produce outstanding results.

The outpouring of support from back home has been amazing. We have been receiving lots of mail and care packages as of late. We also received the wonderful banners that were made during the Valentine's Day event in February. On the USS Comstock we have hung our banner on the MessDecks where everyone eats their meals so all can see that we are not forgotten.

Continue to be proud or your Marine or Sailor. Even though you do not have a chance to see them doing what they do in this deployed environment, just know they are professionals in every sense of the word.

We thank you for all of the support and look forward to being reunited with the ones we love.

Semper Fidelis,

SgtMaj Rob Baker

CLB-13 IN EXERCISE "SEA SOLDIER"



In early March, twenty two Marines and Sailors from Combat Logistics Battalion 13 spent twelve dusty days supporting BLT 1/1 and their training during Exercise Sea Soldier. Maintenance, communications, and ammunition support were the top priorities for the small detachment of CLB personnel. Though supporting the BLT may have been the focus of the mission, CLB Marines and Sailors were given the opportunity to train on the M240B machine gun, complete the combat marksmanship program and PT nearly every morning.

The rocky, desert terrain range was a welcomed change from life on ship. Frankincense trees and large boulders were scattered outside the small base camp and camels were frequently seen along the roadside. Daily operations included issuing ammunition to Bravo Company platoons and convoying to and from training areas and refueling sites. Four CH-46 helicopters provided air support for the exercise and were staged outside the gates of the camp and required large amounts of fuel to maintain their frequent flight schedule. The whirl of their rotor blades could be heard in the evening hours as they conducted night flights over the training area. Motor Transport Marines were key players in supporting the "birds" with the fuel they needed to continue their operations throughout the exercise.

Another important CLB piece during Operation Sea Soldier was providing maintenance support for the eighteen tactical vehicles being used during training. Bravo Company made daily trips to the range, often making several trips to transport Marines and their gear using MTVRs and HMMWVs. With the rough, dirt roads, the vehicles required extra attention at the end of each day. The five mechanics on site continued to provide care to these vehicles until they were driven onto LCUs and loaded back onto the Comstock.





The final evening concluded with a barbecue of hot dogs and hamburgers. The Marines and Sailors packed up their gear and prepared for the next day's convoy and backload onto the USS Comstock. At the end of almost two weeks in the field, CLB Marines and Sailors looked forward to their own rack and a well-deserved meal on the mess decks. **MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!**

On to the next adventure...





MARK YOUR CALENDARS!





| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|------------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|--|---|
| | | | 1 L.I.N.K.S. | L.I.N.K.S. | BASIC BUDGETING CLASS | FAMILY READINESS VOLUNTEER TRAINING |
| 5 | RESUME WRITING CLASS | 7 | 8 | 9 KEY VOLUNTEER MEETING SPRING & EGG HUNT (STUART MESA) | BASIC BUDGETING CLASS | 11 |
| 12 EASTER EGG HUNT (RANCH HOUSE HAPPY Easter | 13 | 14 ELDER CARE CLASS | L.I.N.K.S. for Kids (new!) | 16 FAMILY READINESS VOLUNTEER TRAINING | BASIC BUDGETING CLASS | 18 |
| 19 | FEDERAL HIRING PROCESS | 21 | 22 | 23 | VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION CEREMONY (SOUTH MESA CLUB) | FAMILY DAY (CELEBRITY RANCH IN TEMECULA) |
| 26 | 27 | 28 LIFE SKILLS CLASS FAMILY CARE PLAN CLASS | 29 | 30 SPONSORSHIP | | |

CONTACT THE FAMILY READINESS OFFICER FOR MORE INFO

FROM THE FAMILY READINES OFFICER

I would like to take this opportunity to say "HELLO". As your Family Readiness Officer, I am your point of contact here at CLB-13 concerning any needs you may encounter while your spouse is deployed. I will provide you with:

- Official two-way command communication
- Information and referral services
- Readiness and deployment support

I take great pleasure in serving and supporting YOU. I will ensure, to the best of my abilities that you receive accurate and timely information as well as providing you with the support and resources your family needs. I will keep you informed of family events and activities on base as they are announced.

Supportive families are the bedrock foundation of our unit. Not only do you love your individual Marine or Sailor, Americans love them too and we all want to see them succeed. The dignity and respect we pay them and their family members are a reflection of our love for them, our Country, and our Navy and Marine Corps.

The Navy—Marine Corps Team works very hard to recognize family readiness as a critical component to operational readiness. As such, communicating with and including family members in our activities provides us with additional inner strength and confidence. There is an enduring partnership between the unit's Family Readiness Command Team and Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS). MCCS has many programs and resources that can assist our extended families, especially during deployment time. Throughout the newsletter you will information on many of the programs available. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you ever have any questions.

I look forward to working with you.

Semper Fidelis,

Maurice L. Anderson

CLB-13 Family Readiness Officer









FAMILY READINESS COMMAND TEAM LEADERSHIP

| <u>Name</u> | Phone | Email Address |
|--------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Family Readiness Officer | 760-468-7618 | maurice.anderson@usmc.mil |
| Mrs. Andra Reventlow | 951-676-0628 | reventlows@verizon.net |
| Mrs. Carey Grana | 760-237-6370 | granab81@hotmail.com |
| Mrs. Cynthia Baker | 760-430-7793 | bakersplace@cox.net |
| Mrs. Jannah Sanchez | 760-828-2585 | jannahsanchez@hotmail.com |
| Mrs. Christine Anderson | 978-476-3069 | babygirl 696926@yahoo.com |
| Mrs. Terri Floyd | 562-418-1057 | floyd12905@cox.net |
| Mrs. Christina Clarke | 858-650-3049 | clarke858@aol.com |
| Mrs. Jessilyn Guajardo | 760-859-7224 | jessilynrguajardo@gmail.com |
| Mrs. Aubry Murray | 760-500-8717 | aubrymurray@hotmail.com |
| Mrs. Amber Swanton | 209-585-6822 | theswantonfamily@yahoo.com |
| Mrs. Jessica Muniz | 760-587-7876 | jmuniz0507@msn.com |
| Mrs. Brandee Thompson | 760-405-7526 | brandee7601@hotmail.com |

AMERICAN RED CROSS:

Disaster relief and emergency family messages.

800-REDCROSS / 760-725-3303

RELOCATING?

Be sure to contact the Family Readiness Officer with details in order to stay updated on official information regarding your spouse.

CLB-13 FAMILY READINESS WEBSITE:

www.i-mef.usmc.mil/mlg/clr17/clb-13/ familyreadiness/default.asp

WEBSITE IS UPDATED REGULARLY!

Whether its help with childcare, personal finances, emotional support during deployments, or relocation info, Military OneSource is FREE for military personnel and their families.

www.militaryonesource.com

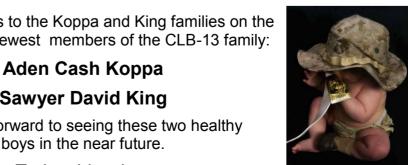
Toll free 24 hours: 800-342-9647

Congratulations to the Koppa and King families on the arrival of our newest members of the CLB-13 family:

Aden Cash Koppa Sawyer David King

We look forward to seeing these two healthy

Truly a blessing.



FAMILY READINESS INFORMATION



Operation Homefront's *CinC*House.com is the largest online magazine and web-based community for military wives, girlfriends and women in uniform. *CinC*House.com contains thousands of helpful articles on how to succeed in military life, ranging from topics such as "Relocating Your Family Overseas" to "Financial Survival During Deployment." Our articles are arranged into Lifestyle Sections including "Your Career," "Finances," "Family Time," and more.



MilitaryHOMEFRONT is the official Department of Defense web site for reliable Quality of Life information designed to help troops and their families, leaders and service providers. Whether you live the military lifestyle or support those who do, you'll find what you need!

www.militaryhomefront.com



MARINE CORPS SPOUSE - THE GREATEST (AND TOUGHEST) JOB IN THE CORPS! Becoming part of the Marine Corps family can be difficult when there is no one to show you the ropes! Spouses in the Lifestyle Insight, Networking, Knowledge and Skills (L.I.N.K.S.) program are dedicated to welcoming other spouses into the community and helping them cope with life challenges in "The Corps." Learn more with L.I.N.K.S.! The program offers three 3-hour sessions packed with information, resources, services, community activities, deployment and separation issues, and more! CONTACT THE FAMILY READINESS OFFICER FOR MORE DETAILS

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

The **Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society** is a nonprofit, charitable organization that provides financial, educational, and other assistance to members of the Naval Services of the United States, and their eligible family members and survivors, when in need. To do this, counseling, loans, grants, various services, and referral to other community resources are available. There are no fees for such help.

Services which the Society provides include:

Interest-free loans or grants to deal with emergency needs

Education loans and grants



When the service member can afford to repay, financial assistance is provided as an interest-free loan, which is normally repaid by allotment. If repayment would cause a hardship, assistance may be provided as a grant or a combination of grant and interest-free loan. NMCRS does not, however, assist with the purchase of non-essentials, nor does it supplement the income of persons who live beyond their means.

NMCRS Camp Pendleton
Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society
Box 555006, Bldg 1121
Camp Pendleton, CA 92055-5006
e-mail to:
Michael Hire, hiremike@campen.nmcrs.org

Hours: Mon.-Wed., Fri. 0800-1600

Thur. 0800-1515

Phone:(760) 725-5337/5338

DSN: 365-5818 **Fax**: (760) 385-4356

Promotions

JANUARY

CPL BRITTO

CPL MITCHELL

CPL MOORE

CPL MYLES

CPL REED

FEBRUARY

LCPL BEAUCHAMP

LCPL GARCIA

CPL RAUCHLE

SGT CERVANTES

SGT HAVENS

SGT MORALES

SGT PETERS

SGT VIGARINO

SSGT BREWER

MARCH

LCPL KEELEY

CPL GRIFFIN

CPL MARIER

CPL SEICHTER



Motomail





MotoMail Scanning location for handwritten Letters: Offices at MCB Camp Pendleton, MCAS Miramar, MCAGCC 29 Palms, and MCAS Yuma.

- Customer Support
- HQMC Postal
 Affairs (MRP-3)
- Toll Free I-877-763-2542

e-mail to:
MotoMail@usmc.mil

ww.motomail.us

How Does MotoMail Work?

- Sender logs onto www.motomail.us to create the letter or takes a handwritten letter to a scanning location.
- The letter is sent to the MotoMail server.
- The designated USMC post office downloads the letter to a special machine which prints, folds, and seals the letter.
- The letter is delivered through unit mail call.
- Unlike E-mail, it allows a Marine or Sailor to keep a physical reminder of their loved ones with them at all times and can be read and re-read.



CLB-13 MAILING ADDRESSES ON SHIP

USS BOXER

RANK & NAME CLB-13 (SECTION) UNIT 42330 FPO AP 96610-2330

USS COMSTOCK

RANK & NAME CLB-13 (SECTION) UNIT 42332 FPO AP 96610-2332

• USS NEW ORLEANS

RANK & NAME CLB-13 (SECTION) UNIT 42331 FPO AP 96610-2331

CLB-13 CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Dear CLB 13 Families,

Greetings to all CLB-13 Families and Friends! I am thankful to report God is blessing and taking care of us out here. Thank you for all your prayers on our behalf – they are being answered. We are especially grateful the Lord worked it out for us to have visits to Hawaii, Guam, Thailand, Malaysia, the Maldives, Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain.

The Marines and Sailors continue to train in order to enhance their physical and combat readiness. For their spiritual readiness, we are offering Jewish, Catholic, Mormon, and Protestant services. On the COMSTOCK we also have a Bible Study Monday thru Saturday evenings and a prayer meeting twice a week in the morning. So there is opportunity for spiritual nurture and growth seven days a week. I am also available for counseling any day.

Today, I heard about a survey on happiness conducted by Time magazine a few years ago (2005). The researchers found that income, possessions, education, IQ, and where you live were not what made the difference between happy and unhappy people. Instead, here is what the survey concluded makes a happy person:

- 1. Being thankful
- 2. Showing kindness
- Savoring joy
- Being forgiving
- 5. Investing time & energy in family and friends
- 6. Taking care of your body
- 7. Developing a strategy to cope with trials & hardships

I pray that during the trial of this deployment, we at sea and you at home, with God's help, will put into practice what makes for true happiness.

God be with you and keep you safe,

Chaplain Flint

"Dear brothers and sisters, when trials come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and He will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking" (James 1:2-5).

NEW PARENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS

The "New Parent Support Program" is a professional team of nurses and social workers who provide supportive and caring services to military families with children under the age of six.

BABY BOOT CAMP

This class is a great way to learn everything you need to know to take care of your infant! Class includes everything from keeping baby safe, taking care of you as a parent, dealing with crying, bathing, and caring for a baby, and resources for families at Camp Pendleton.

OUR FIRST FRIENDS...MOMMIE AND ME SUPPORT GROUP

Bring your baby and meet with others for a morning of social support, sharing, and fun! This group is for mothers and their babies 12 months and under.

PLAY MORNING

This is a "funtastic" way to get out of the house with the kids and have a GREAT time! Simple crafts, songs, toys, and camaraderie geared for families with children age 5 and younger.

PARENTING CLASSES

Kids do not come with instruction manuals. This class discusses topics designed to make your life easier and help you raise healthy, cooperative children. Communication, discipline for the whole family, self-esteem, and much, much more!

HOME VISITORS

This service assists families during significant periods of their lives. Families are met in their home to provide a safe and familiar environment. Parents have the opportunity to discuss parenting topics such as nutrition, age-appropriate discipline, child development, and age-appropriate play.

Please call (760) 725-3884 for more information.

PICTURES OF GUAM SUSTAINMENT TRAINING









